



LANDSCAPE PATTERNS



Norfolk neighborhoods have a marvelous mix of flowering trees, shade trees, perennials, hedges, ornamental grasses, ground covers, and paving materials that create a distinct sense of place and character. Neighborhoods of various eras have a broad range of street types and public planting areas so the feel and character of each neighborhood is distinct. This section of the Pattern Book is intended to provide guidance for homeowners regarding the private landscape elements found on individual lots within these neighborhoods.

The landscape elements that constitute the front yards are the primary focus for this section. These elements include steps, walls, piers, sidewalk and driveway materials, fencing, lighting and accessories as well as “softscape” materials such as plantings and hedges. This is where the landscaping of the individual house contributes to the overall character of the street.

Houses in the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century neighborhoods often create distinct edges with landscaping in the lots to provide a stronger sense of transition from the private realm of the house to the more public realm of the sidewalk and the street. The nineteenth-century neighborhoods typically have shallower front yards that are well planted, sometimes overflowing to the sidewalk or have short lawns edged with brick between the public sidewalk and the foundation planting of the house. The early twentieth-century neighborhoods have deeper front lawns that feature a variety of trees, flower beds, groundcover zones, hedges, and fencing.

Post-war neighborhoods are distinguished by broader lawns with more defined accent planting close to the house. The sidewalk and streets are also broader and less defined by tree lines or house fronts. While the plant palettes and choices are extensive in this region, the inventory of other hardscape elements such as fences, walls, walks, and driveways are important design elements that must be carefully considered.